## West Nile Virus Mosquito Control

# Together we can eliminate potential mosquito breeding grounds and increase our enjoyment of the great outdoors.

Mosquitoes are an all too familiar summer nuisance. They are not only annoying, but they can be transmitters of West Nile virus to humans, and heartworms to pets.

You can take simple positive steps to reduce this menace right at home, since many generations of mosquitoes can breed right in your own yard.

### Standing water means you could be raising mosquitoes!

Adult flying mosquitoes often rest in tall grass and shrubbery, but they cannot develop there. All mosquitoes need water to complete their life cycle.

Some mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water where they hatch in just a day or two. Other mosquitoes may lay their eggs in old tires, tin cans, or other water-holding containers. The eggs may remain unhatched for weeks or even months until they are covered with water!

So, after any rainfall remember to remove any standing water from your yard and help keep mosquitoes from hatching.

#### YARD & HOME CHECKLIST

- Dispose of or properly store old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles, or any water holding containers so they cannot catch water.
- Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts) in your yard.
- Keep drains, ditches, and culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain properly.
- Cover trash containers to keep out rain water.
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
- Empty plastic wading pools at least once a week and store it indoors when not in use.



- Make sure your backyard pool is properly maintained, especially while on vacation.
- Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water with sand or concrete.
- Change the water in bird baths and plant pots or drip trays at least once each week.
- Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well trimmed around the house so adult mosquitoes cannot hide.



Gallatin City-County Health Department Environmental Health Services 215 West Mendenhall, #108 Bozeman, MT 59715 (406) 582-3120

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